Department of Science and Technology (DST) is operating:

• From 2007 onwards, "Collaborative Projects with Scientists and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad Program (CP-STIO Program)". This program aims at sourcing willing and competent STIOs and leveraging their expertise (ideas/best practices, resources) of relevance and importance to Science and Technology initiatives in domestic context, in a joint project mode.

• From 2005 onwards, Ramanujan Fellowship Program. It is meant for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions at any of the scientific institutions and universities in India, especially those who wish to return to India from abroad. All areas of science are covered under this Fellowship.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is operating:

• From 2006-07 onwards, Ramalingaswami Fellowships program. It aims at bringing back scientists of Indian origin working abroad desirous of pursuing Research and Development in an Indian institution for a period of five years. Fellowships are open in all fields of biotechnology including agriculture, health sciences, bio-engineering, bioinformatics;

• From 2008 onwards, DBT-Wellcome Trust Fellowship Program on biomedical research at post doctoral level. It aims at attracting outstanding Indian scientists, physicians researchers and bio-engineers of Indian origin working abroad, to return to India and take up scientific research positions in India, nurture best Indian scientists to perform at international level and to increase the number of locations in India where world-class science is undertaken.

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has launched development of Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK) during 2009, an electronic platform to serve as virtual think tank.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched in 2009, an initiative to recruit Outstanding Scientists of CSIR from Scientists and Technologists of Indian Origin- OS(STIO). They will be placed in various laboratories/institutes/centres/headquarters of CSIR.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (1C AR) recruitment of agricultural scientists is open to best talent available in any part of the world and Indian scientists working abroad can apply for such positions.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research has revived its scheme of "Supernumerary cadre posts" which will be open to candidates including Indian scientists working abroad.

(c) Does not arise.

District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

657. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the country;

(b) whether proposal for opening up the new DDRCs in the rural areas of Hilly States where persons with disabilities get deprived of elementary education and other essential requirements for life, is under consideration of Government;

(c) if so, the number of DDRCs likely going to be opened up in Himachal Pradesh under the scheme;

(d) the details of the amount sanctioned under the scheme during the year 2008-09, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the amount spent under the scheme in Himachal Pradesh during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) There are 199 approved DDRCs in the country, out of which 173 are operational.

(b) and (c) The proposal for opening additional DDRCs is under consideration.

(d) State-wise details of amount sanctioned to DDRCs under various schemes, during the year 2008-09, are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 2.96 lakh was released to DDRC, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. No grant was released, during the year 2008-09, to DDRCs in Himachal Pradesh.

Statement

Grant released under Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of District/DDRC	Amount released during 2008-09 (Rs in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1	Haryana	DDRC, Fatehabad	3.26
2	Jammu & Kashmir	DDRC, Doda	9.11
3	Madhya Pradesh	DDRC, Sehore	9.11
4	Madhya Pradesh	DDRC, Vidisha	6.07
5	Orissa	DDRC, Ganjam	7.14
6	Uttrakhand	DDRC, Nainital	6.07
7	West Bengal	DDRC, Birbhum	9.11
		SUB-TOTAL	49.87
Grant released under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme			
1	Haryana	DDRC, Rohtak	2.47
2	Maharashtra	DDRC, Buldana	4.83
3	Punjab	DDRC, Sangrur	8.03
4	Uttar Pradesh	DDRC, Gonda	1.72
		SUB-TOTAL	17.05

1	2	3	4
Grant released under ADIP Scheme			
1	Madhya Pradesh	DDRC, Rewa	6.00
2	Madhya Pradesh	DDRC, Sagar	6.75
3	Madhya Pradesh	DDRC, Shivpuri	3.75
4	Manipur	DDRC, Imphal	12.00
5	Tamil Nadu	DDRC, Virudhnagar	5.25
6	Tamil Nadu	DDRC, Thoothukudi	3.50
7	Uttarakhand	DDRC, Haridwar	2.50
8	West Bengal	DDRC, Dakshin Dinajpur	3.75
		SUB-TOTAL	43.50
		GRAND TOTAL	110.42

Jobs for Disabled Persons

658. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently taken any steps for creating jobs for disabled persons, to improve their condition in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of disabled persons likely to be benefited;

(c) whether Government has issued any directions to private sector also to create jobs for disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the response Government has received from private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Section 33 of the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in government employment, including 1% each for disabled persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) loco motor disability or cerebral palsy. Moreover, a special recruitment drive has been initiated recently to fill up backlog vacancies for posts reserved for persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) No directions have been issued to the private sector to create jobs for disabled persons. However, a new Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons has been launched, *w.e.f.* 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's 'contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for physically challenged employees employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.